

# IAI RQ-5 Hunter

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The **RQ-5 Hunter** unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was originally intended to serve as the United States Army's Short Range UAV system for division and corps commanders. It took off and landed (using arresting gear) on runways. It used a gimballed EO/IR sensor to relay its video in real time via a second airborne Hunter over a C-band line-of-sight data link. The RQ-5 is based on the Hunter UAV that was developed by Israel Aircraft Industries.



U.S. Army Hunter (RQ-5) unmanned aircraft

## Contents

- 1 Operational overview
- 2 International use
- 3 Specifications
- 4 References
- 5 External links
- 6 See also

## Operational overview

Hunter deployed in 1999 to Kosovo to support NATO operations. Although production was cancelled in 1996, seven low rate initial production (LRIP) systems of eight aircraft each were acquired, four of which remained in service: one for training and three for doctrine development and exercise and contingency support. Hunter was to be replaced by the RQ-7 Shadow, but instead of being replaced, the Army's has kept both systems in operation, because the Hunter has significantly larger payload, range, and time-on-station capabilities than the Shadow.

Significant operation success in Kosovo led to resumption of production and technical improvements, and the system is at present in operational use in Iraq and other military operations. The system has also been armed with the Viper Strike munition.

The Army's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Training Battalion at Fort Huachuca, AZ trains soldiers and civilians in the operation and maintenance of the Hunter UAV.

In 2004, the United States Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Office of Air and Marine utilized the Hunter under a trial program for border patrol duties. During this program, the Hunter flew 329 flight hours, resulting in 556 detections.<sup>[1]</sup>

A version armed with the Northrop Grumman GBU-44/B Viper Strike weapon system is known as the MQ-5A/B.<sup>[2]</sup>

As of October 2012, the U.S. Army has 20 MQ-5B Hunters in service. The Hunter is being slowly replaced by the MQ-1C Grey Eagle. Retirement of the Hunter was expected to be completed in 2013.<sup>[3]</sup> However, Northrop

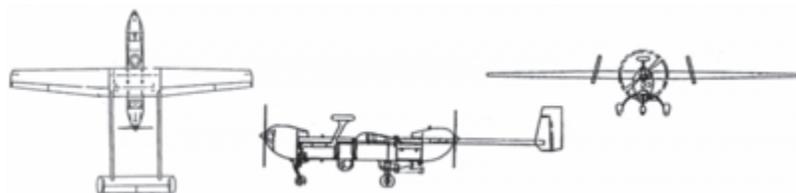
was awarded a support contract for the Hunter on January 22, 2013.<sup>[4]</sup> The completion date for the contract is January 14, 2014, so the Hunter UAV is likely to be flying missions into 2014.<sup>[5]</sup>

## International use

In 1998 the Belgian Air Force purchased three B-Hunter UAV-systems, each consisting of 6 aircraft and two ground control stations.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Specifications

- Primary Function: division- and corp-level reconnaissance
- Contractor: TRW (acquired by Northrop Grumman in 2002), Israel Aircraft Industries
- Power Plant: 2 Moto Guzzi twin cylinder, 4 stroke engines
- Length: 7 m (23 ft)
- Height:
- Weight: 727 kg (1600 lb)
- Wingspan: 8.9 m (29.2 ft)
- Speed:
- Range: 11.6 hours at 260 km (144 nautical miles)
- Ceiling: 4600 m (15,000 ft)
- Fuel Capacity:
- Payload: 90 kg (200 lb)
- System Cost:
- Inventory:



## References

- ↑ "Office of Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine, UAS Presentation" ([http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/border\\_security/air\\_marine/uas\\_program/uas\\_presentation.ctt/uas\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/border_security/air_marine/uas_program/uas_presentation.ctt/uas_presentation.pdf)) (PDF). [http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/border\\_security/air\\_marine/uas\\_program/uas\\_presentation.ctt/uas\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/border_security/air_marine/uas_program/uas_presentation.ctt/uas_presentation.pdf). Retrieved 2006-10-31.
- ↑ "Northrop Grumman (TRW/IAI) BQM-155/RQ-5/MQ-5 Hunter" (<http://www.designation-systems.net/dusrm/m-155.html>) . <http://www.designation-systems.net/dusrm/m-155.html>.
- ↑ UAV Growth Continues (<http://strategypage.com/htmw/htairfo/articles/20121030.aspx>) - Strategypage.com, October 30, 2012
- ↑ Hunter support (<http://www.defense-aerospace.com/article-view/release/141944/northrop-wins-%2437m-to-support-hunter-uav.html>) - Defense-Aerospace.com, January 22, 2013
- ↑ Pentagon Awards Northrop \$37.3 Million to Support Hunter UAV Work (<http://www.suasnews.com/2013/01/20689/pentagon-awards-northrop-37-3-million-to-support-hunter-uav-work/>) - SUASNews.com, January 23, 2013
- ↑ Belgian Military Aircraft ([http://belmilac.wetpaint.com/page/IAI+-+Eagle+B-Hunter+UAV+\(Unmanned+Aerial+Vehicle\)](http://belmilac.wetpaint.com/page/IAI+-+Eagle+B-Hunter+UAV+(Unmanned+Aerial+Vehicle)))

## External links

- Hunter RQ-5A / MQ-5B (<http://www.defense-update.com/products/h/hunter.htm>)
- E Hunter / Hunter II (<http://www.defense-update.com/products/h/hunter.htm#enhanced>)

## See also

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle

### Related lists

- List of active United States military aircraft

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Categories: IAI unmanned aerial vehicles | United States military reconnaissance aircraft 1990–1999  
| Twin boom aircraft | Push-pull aircraft | Twin-engined aircraft

## Navigation menu

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